Mr. Lawrence.
Sanitary Insp.
Mr. Bowler III
Ills. Mr. HALLETT.

Northfleet Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1936

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H..
Medical Officer of Health.

44

GRAVESEND:
GRAVESEND AND DARTFORD REPORTER, LTD.

Northfleet Urban District Council

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For the Year ended December, 1936.

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

GRAVESEND:
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Northfleet Urban District Council.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

MR. GEORGE GOUGE, J.P., C.C.

MR. GEORGE BUTCHER, J.P.
MR. JAMES CARLTON
MR. JAMES HAYNES
MR. FRANK WALTER HUMPHREY
MRS. G. S. LANE
MR. GEORGE R. STREET

Clerk and Solicitor:

MR. F. W. JONES

Assistant Clerk:

MR. W. G. FUTCHER

Medical Officer of Health:

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Maternity and Child Welfare Officer:

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspectors:

J. DYSON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Foods Inspector (Retired March, 1936)

G. CUNLIFFE, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Meat and Food Inspector (appointed April, 1936)

E. H. C. WADHAMS, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I. (appointed July, 1936)

Health Visitor:

MISS E. A. COOPER, C.M.B.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF NORTHFLEET.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1936.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Northfleet Urban District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year ended December, 1936.

The contents and arrangements are based on the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, is embodied in this Report.

I have to report with regret the retirement of Mr. Dyson, and would like to put on record my appreciation of the excellent service he has rendered to the Council.

One of the most remarkable features of the year under review was the complete absence of Diphtheria, which has been endemic in Northfleet for many years.

I am indebted to Mr. Gough, the Vaccination Officer for the Northfleet sub-district, for the Vaccination Report.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for continued interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,
M. F. McDONNELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Northfleet, Kent.
May, 1937.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (as constituted at 30th June, 1935) acres ...	3,770
Population (Census 1931)	16,223
(Estimated 1936)	17,820
Number of Inhabited houses (31st March, 1936) ...	4,818
,, ,, New houses erected year ended 31st December, 1936	156
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931) ...	3,723
Rateable value 31st December, 1936	£101,890
Sum represented by a penny rate (1936)	£408

The issue of a special series of supplementary County Census Volumes is due to the fact that under the operation of the Local Government Act of 1929 the area and boundaries of all Boroughs, Urban Districts, Rural Districts and Civil Parishes in the country are undergoing a comprehensive review and that, in consequence, a large number of them will be subject to substantial rearrangement within a few years of the census date.

In the case of Kent Administrative County, the changes set in motion by the 1929 Act were put into operation by the Kent Review Order, 1934 (Ministry of Health Order No. 78186), which came into effect on the 1st April, 1934, and the County of Kent Review Order, 1935 (Ministry of Health Order No. 79448) which came into effect on the 1st April, 1935, and the present volume shows the position as a result of the changes of area under these Orders, the Ministry of Health Provisional Order Confirmation (Maidstone Extension) Act, 1932, and the Canterbury Extension Act, 1933. There has been no other change of boundary affecting the County between the date of the Census and the 30th June, 1935.

Tables A and B are designed primarily with a view to identifying the changes themselves, while tables C, D and E consist of a re-statement of the principal census facts in respect of the changed conditions, statistics of unchanged areas being repeated in tables C and D for convenience of general reference. It is to be observed that the statistics themselves refer in all cases to the population enumerated on the 26th April, 1931, though the areas for which they are given are those as existing and as constituted on the 30th June, 1935.

General descriptions, definitions, reservations, etc., set out in the tables or textual commentary of Part I of the County Volume apply, *matutis mutandis*, to the figures now presented.

AREAS, WHICH HAVE BEEN ALTERED BETWEEN 26TH APRIL, 1931, AND 30TH JUNE, 1935, SHOWING CONSTITUTIONS AS AT THE LATTER DATE IN TERMS OF CONSTITUTIONS AS AT THE FORMER DATE, TOGETHER WITH PARTICULARS OF ACREAGE AND POPULATION.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Reference to Authority.	*Existing Area i.e. as constituted at 30th June, 1935.*	*Composition of Existing Area in terms of areas as constituted at 26th April, 1931*	*Acreage (Land and Inland Water).*	*Population* 1921.	*Population* 1931.	*Existing Areas in which the balance (if any) of 1931 Area named in col. "c" is now situated.*
D	Northfleet U.D. Northfleet C.P.	Northfleet U.D. (part) Northfleet C.P. (part)	3,770 3,770	15,571 15,571	16,225 16,223	Gravesend M.B. and Strood R.D.

Physical Features, General Character and Social Conditions of the District.

The District is situated wholly in the County of Kent, some 20 miles from London, and occupies an area of 3,770 acres.

It is bounded on the North side by the River Thames, on the South by the Rural District of Strood and the Rural District of Dartford, on the East by the Borough of Gravesend, and on the West by the Urban District of Swanscombe.

The surface of the District is undulating or hilly. The soil is gravel, sand, Thanet sand, brick earth, alluvial and London clay.

The sub-soil is chalk. This formation underlies practically the whole of the District.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement and paper, and cable works.

Average numbers of persons employed is as follows :—

A.P.C.M. (Bevan's Works)	816
Bowater's Paper Mills	788
Henley's Cable Works	1,733
Amalgamated Press, Ltd.	680
Britannia Lead Works	71
Gravesend Welding & Electrical Engineering Works	30

In the Rural parts, market gardening and general agricultural work is the chief employment.

Extent of Unemployment.

The average number of persons unemployed in the area is 340, which is about 2% of the population and compares very favourably with similar districts in the Country. As the number of insured persons actually resident in Northfleet is not available at the local Ministry of Labour Exchange it is not possible to give the percentage of actual workers unemployed.

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of Outdoor Relief during the year ended 31st March, 1936	193
Amount paid in Outdoor Relief year ended 31st March, 1936	£5,935 8s. 1¼d.
Number of Northfleet persons admitted to the Public Assistance Institutions, during the year ended 31st March, 1936	39

Vital Statistics of the District.

Birth Rate. During the year there were 335 births, equivalent to an annual birth rate of 18.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is an increase of 2.3 per 1,000 on last year.

INFANT MORTALITY. 10 deaths occurred among children under one year of age, which is equivalent to 29 per 1,000 births, as against 59 for the whole country.

STILLBIRTHS. Male 12, Female 2, Total 14. Rate per 1,000 live births, 42.

DEATH RATE. The general death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 9.8, which can be considered very satisfactory.

*The numbers of live births, stillbirths and deaths are those Registered (but excluding re-registrations) during the calendar year (*i.e.* 1st January—31st December, inclusive) adjusted only for inward and outward transfers. They will differ, therefore, from unadjusted figures compiled locally either for the calendar year or for a period of fifty-two weeks.

*The deaths are classified under the headings given in the Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland (see page xxiv of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death—1931). The attention of Medical Officers is drawn to the " Rules for the selection of one from two or more jointly stated causes of death " which appears on page xxviii of the Manual. The classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from the certifying practitioner in response to special enquiries, the principal subjects of these enquiries being indicated in a table published in the annual reports of the Registrar-General. This possible source of discrepancy between the returns of the Registrar-General and those compiled locally should be borne in mind particularly in regard to the causes of death dealt with in that table.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live	Legitimate	329	169	160	Birth Rate per 1,000
	Illegitimate	6	4	2	of the estimated resident population, 18.8
Stillbirths	...	175	94	81	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 40
Deaths	...	175	94	81	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 9.8

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 20 of the Registrar-General's Short List :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	1	2.9
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	1	2.9

*General Register Office, Somerset House.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	29
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	29
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	21
,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1

ALTERATION IN BOUNDARY. Where an area has been subject to a change in boundary during the year, the statistics supplied are composite figures comprising—unless otherwise indicated on form S.D. 30.—the records of the former area for the portion of the year prior to the date of change and those of the altered area for the remainder of the year. In such case dual population figures in black and red ink respectively, will be found on S.D. 30 ; the red figure being the mid-year estimate of population for the area as now constituted and the black figures being a modified estimate specially designed for use with the composite records of births, deaths and notifiable diseases of the year 1935.

S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1936.) England and Wales, London, 122 Great Towns and 143 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	122 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	143 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :—				
Live	14.8	14.9	15.0	13.6
Still	0.61	0.67	0.64	0.53
DEATHS :—				
All Causes ...	12.1	12.3	11.5	12.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.07	0.09	0.04	0.14
Scarlet fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Diphtheria ...	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Influenza ...	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.14
Violence ...	0.52	0.45	0.39	0.52
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	2.53	2.18	2.48	2.57
Diphtheria ...	1.39	1.31	1.26	1.69
Enteric fever ...	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06
Erysipelas ...	0.40	0.38	0.35	0.44
Pneumonia ...	1.11	1.10	0.96	0.99
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age	59	63	55	66
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.9	8.2	3.4	14.4
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1.40)			
Others	2.41) Not available			
Total	3.81)			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (*i.e.*, Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1.34)			
Others	2.31) Not available			
Total	3.65)			
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Puerperal fever ...	3.27	3.46	2.80	3.03
Puerperal pyrexia	9.64	9.52	7.57	11.15

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Midwives.

This service is under the control of the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The work at the Centre continues very usefully and efficiently. The average weekly attendance at the Centre has been 103. The average weekly attendance for free milk was 37. Up to December 31st, 1936, 2,373 children have attended the Centre. The total attendances of children during the year were 1,819. There were 159 new attendances. 3,550 lbs. of dried milk were distributed free. It is found that young mothers are becoming more aware of the benefits of attending such a Centre and are taking advantage of the facilities offered.

The Centre is open on three days of the week, on two of which the Medical Officer attends with the Health Visitor and on the third the latter attends alone for the sale of milk. The Health Visitor, who is a fully trained nurse as well as a certified midwife, also attends the Ante-Natal Clinic.

Infant Welfare Centres.

(*a*)	Number of Centres provided and maintained by the Council	1
(*b*)	Number of Centres provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations	Nil.
(*c*)	Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year :—	
	(i) By children under 1 year of age ...	1493
	(ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	326
(*d*)	Total number of children who attended at the Centres for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—	
	(i) Under 1 year of age	153
	(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years ...	6
(*e*)	Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :	
	(i) Under 1 year of age	135
	(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	101
(**f**)	Percentage of notified live births represented by the number in (*d*) (i)	69.5

Ante-Natal Clinic.

(*a*)	Number of Clinics provided and maintained by the Council	1
(*b*)	Number of Clinics provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations	Nil.
(*c*)	Total number of attendances by expectant mothers at all Clinics during the year	34
(*d*)	Total number of expectant mothers who attended at the Clinics during the year	15
(*e*)	Percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the number in (*d*)	6.43

Toddlers' Clinic.

As previously reported, the Health Visitor is making regular visits to the homes and every effort is made to persuade the mothers to bring the toddlers periodically to the clinic for examination by the doctor. If the attendances warrant the formation of toddlers' clinics, I recommend that special sessions should be held.

Day Nurseries.

Careful enquiries have been made amongst the married women in the district and the evidence obtained pointed to the fact that very few of these women were engaged in occupations away from home (factory hands, field workers or domestic servants) which would warrant the formation of day nurseries. Enquiries have also been made as to suitable accommodation, but no proper premises are available. The expense involved—rent, rates and taxes; the provision of a trained nurse; feeding the children, etc.; heating and lighting—would be very heavy. Considering these factors, I think that the cost would not be commensurate with the gain to the public health service of the district. In conclusion, I have to state that whilst I am in sympathy with the views expressed in Circular 1550 of the Ministry of Health, I am of the opinion that the need for the formation of day nurseries does not exist in the Northfleet Urban District for the time being.

Dental Treatment.

I have received a letter from the County Medical Officer enquiring whether the Council would consider the inclusion of the County Council's scheme for dental treatment of expectant mothers and children under five years of age attending the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. The Health Committee deferred consideration of this matter.

Children Under School Age.

In June last, the Committee considered a circular letter from the Ministry of Health drawing attention to the desirability of the periodical health visiting of children between the time when they

cease to attend infant welfare centres and the time when they enter school. I reported that I have arranged for the Health Visitor to visit such children at the ages of (approximately) 2, 3 and 4 years, and in cases where there is ground for suspecting disease or defect, to advise the parents to consult the family doctor or to arrange for the child to attend the Council's clinic.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are no Maternity or Nursing Homes in the area under the control of the Council.

Maternal Mortality.

The County Medical Officer of Health co-operates with me in undertaking any necessary investigations in connection with maternal deaths.

The following arrangements have been made by the Council :—

(1) Difficult cases of labour are admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.
(2) Cases of Puerperal Sepsisare admitted to the King Edward Hospital, Dartford.
(3) Consultant Gynecologist available if required.
(4) Ante-natal and other clinics provided by the Council.

These are sufficient for the needs of the district.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, one whole time (M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.).

The other duties of the M.O.H. are as follows :—(1) Medical Superintendent Strood Isolation Hospital. (2) District Medical Officer for Northfleet District. (3) Public Vaccinator for Northfleet. (4) Medical Officer of Health, Strood Rural District.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Two.—Chief Sanitary Inspector—holds the Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificates as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—Certified Sanitary Inspector by examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

The Sanitary Inspectors also carry out the following duties :—

Administration and supervision of the house refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing and gully emptying services.

Health Visitor : Miss E. A. Cooper, C.M.B.

Maternity and Child Welfare Officer :—

James Crawford, M.B., Ch.B.

Children Act, 1908, Part 1—Section 2 (a) of the Local Government Act, 1929.

The Health Visitor visits the children regularly and keeps the requisite register. At present there are five names on the register—two of these in one house. All the homes have been found very satisfactory.

Hospitals.

Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend, serves the District, and contains 109 beds and 9 cots.

Medway Institution, Chatham. This Institution has the following number of beds:—Tuberculosis, 38; children (including 12 maternity cots), 24; maternity, 12; general, 409—total, 483.

Public Assistance Institution, Strood. This Institution serves a large district. It has 126 beds, four of which are for Maternity cases and eight for Tuberculosis patients. The County Council has decided to close this Institution.

Public Assistance Institution, Gravesend. Has 72 beds, including two for maternity cases.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester. This is a Voluntary General Hospital, and serves a large area with a population of over 200,000.

King Edward Hospital, Dartford. No. of beds, 639; maternity, 6; tuberculosis, 20.

Tuberculosis. The treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council, and suitable cases from this district are admitted to their sanatoria as occasion demands. There is no sanatorium for Tuberculosis situated in the district.

Hospital and other forms of gratuitous Medical Relief are utilized to the utmost extent in the District.

Isolation Hospital.

The Strood Isolation Hospital occupies an area of six acres and consists of four blocks—three brick and one corrugated iron. These blocks are 40 feet from each other and from the boundary fence. There are six large and five small wards, and they contain 36 beds (allowing 144 sq. feet of floor per bed).

The administrative accommodation consists of a Matron, a Staff Nurse, and three Nurses. Domestic Staff is four women and one man.

The other offices are a hand laundry, which is sufficient for the wants of the Hospital; a disinfection station contains a Thresh Disinfector and garage for Motor Ambulance.

Sewage Disposal.—Administration Block to Cesspool; Wards, bucket system, burnt in incinerator. This latter system is antiquated, and the Council propose installing a more up-to-date method.

Heating is provided for by fires in each Ward. Lighting by electricity, and water is supplied by the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Co.

The accommodation for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric is sufficient for the wants of the District.

Details of Wards.

The available accommodation is as follows:—

		Dimensions.		*Floor Space.*
		Length.	*Breadth.*	*Approx.*
Diphtheria Block	Male	26′ 4″	23′ 6″	624 sq. ft.
	Female	26′ 4″	23′ 6″	624 ,,
	4 Small	12′ 6″	11′ 6″	576 ,,
Scarlet Fever Block	Male	26′ 4″	23′ 6″	624 ,,
	Female	26′ 4″	23′ 6″	624 ,,
	4 Small	12′ 6″	11′ 6″	576 ,,
Enteric Block	Male	29′ 10″	19′ 6″	580 ,,
	Female	29′ 10″	19′ 6″	580 ,,
	3 Small	13′ 0″	9′ 3″	363 ,,

This gives us a total floor space of 5,171 square feet or accommodation for 36 patients allowing each bed 144 square feet of floor space.

Following the adjustment of boundaries, which took place last March, the population of the combined districts served by the hospital will be less than 36,000. This gives us the correct number of beds as laid down by the Ministry of Health, *i.e.*, 1 per 1,000 of population.

Sanitary Districts from which patients are admitted:—

Name of District.	Population (1936).
Strood Rural	16,940
Northfleet Urban (1936)	17,820
Occasionally other districts temporarily.	
	34,760

The next Table shows the number of cases of each disease treated in the Hospital for the past eight years :—(Northfleet

	1929		1930		1931		1932		1933		1934		1935		1936	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	15	...	9	...	6	...	2	...	7	...	15	...	10	...	18	...
Diphtheria	4	...	5	1	4	...	4	1	5	1	4	...	3	1	...	...
Typhoid Fever	13	6	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	32	6	21	2	10	Nil.	6	1	12	1	20	Nil.	13	1	18	Nil

Ambulance Facilities.

A Motor Ambulance is provided by the Strood Rural Council for the removal of infectious cases. Ambulance facilities are also provided by the St. John Ambulance for non-infectious and accident cases.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is a list of the diseases which have to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health :—

(1) Small-pox. (2) Scarlet Fever. (3) Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup. (4) Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid). (5) Pneumonia. (6) Cholera. (7) Plague. (9) Puerperal Fever. (10) Cerebro-spinal Fever. (11) Acute Poliomyelitis. (12) Acute Polioencephalitis. (13) Encephalitis Lethargica. (14) Typhus Fever. (15) Relapsing Fever. (16) Continued Fever. (17) Dysentery. (18) Ophthalmia Neonatorum. (19) Puerperal Pyrexia. (20) Erysipelas. (21) Tuberculosis, primary notifications only. Respiratory, other forms. (22) Malaria (believed to be contracted in this country, believed to be contracted abroad, induced in institutions).

Infectious Disease.

Cases of infectious disease which cannot be properly isolated at home are removed to the Strood Isolation Hospital under an agreement which the Council has with that Institution. This arrangement continues to prove most satisfactory, both from the point of economy and efficiency. Prompt removal of patients is always carried out by means of a motor ambulance.

Table showing the numbers of cases and deaths from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever since 1929 :—

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1929	42	Nil	13	Nil	18	7
1930	58	Nil	25	1	6	1
1931	33	Nil	25	1	Nil	Nil
1932	22	1	13	6	Nil	Nil
1933	32	Nil	11	4	Nil	Nil.
1934	71	Nil	13	Nil	Nil	Nil
1935	44	Nil	12	1	1	Nil
1936	39	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	341	1	112	13	25	8

Scarlet Fever.

Number of cases notified	...	39
Number of deaths ...	...	Nil.
Case fatality per cent.	...	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		18
Percentage of cases removed	...	46%

Diphtheria.

Number of cases notified ...	...	Nil.
Number of deaths ...	...	Nil.
Case fatality per cent. ...	...	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		Nil.
Percentage of cases removed	...	Nil.

Enteric Fever.

Number of cases notified ...	...	Nil.
Number of deaths ...	...	Nil.
Case fatality per cent. ...	...	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		Nil.
Percentage of cases removed	...	Nil.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

An arrangement has been made by means of which cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia, which cannot be properly isolated or attended to at home, are admitted to the King Edward Avenue Hospital, Dartford.

Small Pox.

No cases were notified during the year. A few contacts came into the district at intervals, these were kept under observation until the incubation period had expired.

A small hospital of six beds, capable of rapid expansion, is always kept ready in case of emergency.

A conference of various local authorities was convened by the Kent County Council during 1934 with a view of obtaining views as to the possibility of having central hospitals for the care of cases of Small Pox in the County. It was suggested that a fixed annual charge on the rateable value of each district should be made to maintain the hospitals. Most of the authorities were in favour of the scheme.

Tuberculosis.

For details of cases see special section of Report.

Tuberculosis Dispensary Service.

The services of the tuberculosis officers are available for the purpose of consultation in all cases receiving domiciliary treatment, and, at the request of the medical attendant, a certain number of patients are kept under the supervision of the tuberculosis officers.

There are twenty-two dispensaries in the County. Particulars as to the tuberculosis officer in charge, the address of the dispensary and the hours of attendance are given below. Information is also given as to the additional area allocated to each tuberculosis officer for visitation purposes :—

District No. 1.—Population, approx., 226,588.
(Tuberculosis Officer in Charge, WILLIAM BEARE MARTIN, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.)

	Address.	*Day and Time of Opening.*	*Additional Area for Domiciliary Visitation.*
DARTFORD (Tel. No. 378)	41 Overy Street	Monday, 1.30-3.30 p.m. Thursday, 5.30-6.30 p.m.	Dartford R., Crayford, Swanscombe, Bexley, Northfleet and part of Strood R.
Erith	65 Bexley Road	Monday, 5.0-6.0 p.m. Thursday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.	
Gravesend	22 Cobham Street	Wednesday, 1.0-3.0 p.m.	

District No. 2.—Population, approx. 181,214.
(Tuberculosis Officer in Charge, CHARLES ROPER, B.A.(Camb.), M.D., B.C., D.P.H.)

ROCHESTER (Tel. No. Chatham 2182)	13 New Road	Friday, 9.30-10.30 a.m. Tuesday, 2.0-3.0 p.m. and 5.0-6.0 p.m.	Hoo R., part of Strood R. Chatham, N.E. fringe of Malling R., N.W. fringe of Hollingbourn R., W. quarter of Milton R., Queenborough and Sheppey.
Gillingham	228 Nelson Road	Tuesday, 9.30-10.30 a.m. Friday, 2.0-3.0 p.m. and 4.0-5.0 p.m.	
Sheerness	Granville Villa, Granville Road	Thursday, 11.0 a.m. 1.0 p.m.	

Venereal Diseases.

Amendments have been made in the times of holding the following clinics and they are now as follows :—

ROCHESTER—36, NEW ROAD.

Days and Times of Consultation.

	Men	*Women*
Tuesday	3 p.m. — 7 p.m.	3 p.m. — 6.30 p.m.
Thursday	11 a.m. — 2 p.m.	11 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Days and Hours for Irrigation.

	Men	*Women*
Monday	10 a.m. — 1 p.m.	9 a.m. — 12 noon
	2 p.m. — 3 p.m.	1 p.m. — 4 p.m.
	and 5.30 p.m. — 8 p.m.	
Tuesday	10 a.m. — 10.30 a.m.	1 o.m. — 6.30 p.m.
	3 p.m. — 8 p.m.	
Wednesday	10 a.m. — 1 p.m.	9 a.m. — 12 noon
	2 p.m. — 3 p.m.	1 p.m. — 4 p.m.
	and 5.30 p.m. — 8 p.m.	
Thursday	11 a.m. — 2 p.m.	9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
	5.30 p.m. — 8 p.m.	2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. — 1 p.m.	9 a.m. — 12 noon
	2 p.m. — 3 p.m.	1 p.m. — 4 p.m.
	and 7.30 p.m. — 8.30 p.m.	
Saturday	10 a.m. — 1 p.m.	9 a.m. — 12 noon

GRAVESEND—22, COBHAM STREET.

Days and Times of Consultation.

	Men	*Women*
Tuesday	11 a.m. — 1 p.m.	1 p.m. — 2.13 p.m.
Thursday	5 p.m. — 7 p.m.	3 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.

Days and Hours for Irrigation.

	Men	*Women*
Monday	6 p.m. — 7 p.m.	9 a.m. — 12 noon
		and 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. — 1 p.m.	1 p.m. — 2.15 p.m.
	and 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.	
Wednesday	6 p.m. — 7 p.m.	9 a.m. — 11.30 a.m.
Thursday	5 p.m. — 7 p.m.	3 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.
Friday	6 p.m. — 7 p.m.	9 a.m. — 12 noon
		and 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Saturday	1 p.m. — 2 p.m.	9 a.m. — 11.30 a.m.

Treatment of Crippled Children.

The county scheme for the treatment of crippled children includes the provision of eighty beds at the Alexandra Hospital at Swanley, not less than forty-eight being for tuberculous cripples and not more than thirty-two for patients suffering from crippling defects due to other causes. For those children who are of school age education is provided. The whole of these beds are now occupied by Kent patients.

In addition, the following three hospitals have provided a limited number of beds for patients who do not require prolonged institutional treatment, viz. :—

(*a*) West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
(*b*) Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.
(*c*) King Edward Avenue Hospital, Dartford.

These three hospitals have each established a properly equipped orthopaedic out-patient department, and a complete list of out-patient clinics is set out below :—

Address.	Day and time of Opening.	Orthopaedic Surgeon Attends.	Name of Surgeon.
Ashford Child Welfare Centre, Station Road, Ashford.	Each Wednesday at 11.30 a.m.	First and third Wednesdays in each month.	A. L. Moreton, Esq., M.S., M.B., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Wesleyan Methodist Church Rooms, York Street, Broadstairs.	Each Tuesday at 11.30 a.m.	First and third Tuesdays in each month.	Ditto
Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.	Each Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to about 1 p.m.	Each Wednesday.	A. B. Beresford-Jones, Esq., M.S., M.B.
King Edward Avenue Hospital, Dartford.	First Tuesday in each month at 4.0 p.m., and third Tuesday in each month at 2.30 p.m.	At each opening.	H. E. Batten, Esq., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
*Tuberculosis Dispensary, 41, Overy Street, Dartford.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.	Each Friday. New patients should arrive at the Union Street entrance of the hospital before 10 a.m., if possible. No patient is admitted after 11.15 a.m.	Ditto.	A. H. Todd, Esq., M.S., M.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Dorset House, St. John's Road, Sevenoaks.	Each Monday at 10.30 a.m.	Second and fourth Mondays in each month.	A. L. Moreton, Esq.
Sheerness Town Welfare Centre Marine Parade, Sheerness.	Each Monday at 11.30 a.m.	First and third Mondays in each month.	Ditto.

*For tuberculous cripples only.
Voluntary Committees of ladies interested in the work, assist at the Ashford, Broadstairs, Sevenoaks and Sheerness Clinics.

Necessary surgical appliances are provided for patients on the recommendation of the orthopaedic surgeons, and X-ray films are taken at various approved institutions. Cases arising for electrical treatment, massage, exercise, etc., receive daily treatment, where necessary, at certain of the clinics, at St. Mary's Convalescent Home, Birchington, or at the homes of the children.

The parents of patients are asked to contribute towards the cost of institutional treatment and surgical appliances, in accordance with their means.

Travelling expenses of patients are met by the Kent County Council in necessitous cases.

The above arrangements apply to: —

(i) All crippled children under five years of age living in the area in which the County Council is responsible for maternity and child welfare.

(ii) All children attending schools of the Kent Education Committee.

(iii) All tuberculous cripples up to sixteen years of age.

(iv) Children (under five years of age or attending elementary schools) in the following autonomous districts, the Councils of which have arranged to participate in the County scheme :—

Borough of Faversham, Gravesend, Margate, Sandwich.
Urban Districts of Ashford, Bexley, Crayford, Dartford, Milton and Sittingbourne, Northfleet, Sevenoaks, Sheerness.
Rural Districts of Dartford, Milton, Tonbridge.

Cancer.

The number of deaths caused by Cancer during the year under review was ~~30~~ 21. Most of the cases occurred amongst elderly folk and no undue prevalence in any particular organ was noted. It was not deemed necessary to advise the Council to take any action to improve the facilities for health instruction, diagnosis or treatment, such as those outlined in Circular 1136 of the 31st July, 1930.

British Empire Cancer Campaign.

The British Empire Cancer Campaign has formed a Committee to stimulate the education of the public on matters concerning cancer—particularly the early symptons of the accessible cancers such as the breast, uterus, tongue, etc.

It is considered that the best way of doing this is to form panels of Local Practitioners who will give lectures in their respective districts, for which they will receive a small honorarium. The objects of such lectures will be :—

1. To diminish the present very widespread fear of the disease and

2. To convince people of the importance of early diagnosis and to persuade them to seek medical advice at an early stage of the disease.

"The scheme envisaged is that lectures will be arranged by various organisations, such as the Women's Institutes, etc., and that they will apply from time to time to Headquarters for lectures. If a request were received from a district within your area, I should write to you to ask if you would get in touch with a medical man who is on your panel and who lives near the meeting place to give the lecture on the date specified. Possibly we might ask you to

arrange for posters which would be sent down from Headquarters, to be displayed appropriately. Headquarters is most anxious to do all the work but there are just one or two things, as mentioned above, which can only be done by the ' man on the spot.' ''

Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined free of charge at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. Full use has been made of these facilities, which are most satisfactory.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners in the District.

The following are the numbers of the specimens submitted from this district :—

Sputum	...	...	67
Swabs	...	...	18
Serum	...	...	1

Dick and Sckick Test.

No use has been made of either of these Tests during the year.

Verminous Persons.

Facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of persons are available at the Public Assistance Institution at Strood.

Disinfection.

All bedding and articles of clothing from houses where cases of infectious disease have occurred are promptly removed to a steam disinfector belonging to the Council. Disinfectants are freely supplied and the room occupied by the patient is disinfected by Formalin Vapour.

Vaccination.

The percentage of babies vaccinated remains high—it is more than 60% of the babies born—and no babies have been vaccinated by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Preventative Regulations,) 1917, during the year.

I am indebted to Mr. Gough, the Vaccination Officer for the sub-division of Northfleet, for the following report :—

NORTHFLEET DISTRICT.

Vaccination—Years 1923-1935.

I beg to submit my Annual Vaccination Report for the Northfleet District.

It will be of interest to note that over a period of thirteen years, an average of 62% of babies born were vaccinated, approximately 50% of these by yourself as Public Vaccinator for the District.

There has been a slight increase in the case of parents who object to the vaccination of babies, and that Statutory Declarations made in this respect, remain at 32% of the total births registered.

The high percentage of babies vaccinated in your district is therefore maintained.

Northfleet District.

Vaccination Return for the Years 1923-1936.

Year.	Births Registered.	Vaccinated by Public Vaccinator.	Vaccinated by Medical Practitioners.	Statutory Declarations made against Vaccination.	Insusceptibility to Vaccination.	Removed from District	Died before Vaccination.	Total.
1923	427	189	84	133	2	10	9	427
1924	447	228	69	124	1	9	16	447
1925	455	219	64	138	1	10	23	455
1926	418	195	73	127	—	6	17	418
1927	417	190	75	128	2	3	19	417
1928	418	191	55	150	1	6	15	418
1929	408	196	64	129	1	4	14	403
1930	353	170	49	110	2	8	14	353
1931	369	174	67	115	1	2	10	369
1932	346	161	43	114	3	5	20	346
1933	409	219	65	106	1	9	9	409
1934	396	194	48	127	—	10	17	396
1935	332	145	38	124	—	18	7	332
1936	284	96	46	124	3	4	11	284
Totals	5497	2567	840	1749	18	104	201	5479

Percentage Vaccinated and Exempted of Births Registered.

Year.	Total Percentage Vaccinated.	Percentage Vaccinated by Public Vaccinator.	Percentage Vaccinated by Medical Practitioners.	Percentage of Statutory Declarations.
1923	64%	45%	19%	31%
1924	67%	51%	16%	28%
1925	62%	48%	14%	30%
1926	64%	47%	17%	30%
1927	64%	46%	18%	30%
1928	59%	46%	13%	36%
1929	64%	48%	16%	31%
1930	62%	48%	14%	31%
1931	65%	47%	18%	31%
1932	59%	47%	12%	33%
1933	70%	54%	16%	26%
1934	62%	50%	12%	32%
1935	55%	44%	11%	37%
1936	50%	34%	16%	43%
Average	62%	47%	15%	32%

D. A. GOUGH,

May, 1937. *Vaccination Officer, Northfleet, Kent.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1936.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths *
Small-pox	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	39	18	Nil.
Diphtheria	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Puerperal Fever	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
,, Pyrexia ...	1	Nil.	Nil.
Pneumonia	6	Nil.	6
Erysipelas	5	Nil.	Nil.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Totals	51	18	6

*R.G. Returns.

	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 3 years.	3 and under 4 years.	4 and under 5 years.	5 and under 7 years.	7 and under 10 years.	10 and under 15 years.	15 and under 20 years.	20 and under 35 years.	35 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years	65 and over.	Totals.
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	2	2	5	7	11	8	2	2	...	...	...	39
Erysipelas ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	5
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary M.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	2	...	8
Tuberculosis F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	1	...	7
Non-Pulm'y M.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Totals	1	0	3	2	5	8	14	11	3	10	5	3	4	69

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.†			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10—15	...	1	2	...	...	2	1	...
15—25	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	1	2	...	...	1	2	...	...
35—45	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
45—55	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
65 up	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	8	7	3	0	5	7	2	0

†R.G. Returns.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken during 1936.

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Register of Notifications of cases of Tuberculosis, for the Year ended the 31st day of December, 1936.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(*a*) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the Year...	57	36	93	22	15	37	130
(*b*) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the Year	49	32	81	21	14	35	116

Non-Notifiable Acute Infections.

The district has been comparatively free from Influenza, and the number of deaths due to this disease negligible. Rabies was absent, while the number of cases of anthrax brought to my notice was very small.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

No outbreaks were reported during the year.

Causes of Death in Northfleet Urban District, 1936.

Causes of Death	M.	F.
All Causes	94	81
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...
2 Measles ...	...	...
3 Scarlet fever	...	...
4 Whooping cough ...	...	1
5 Diphtheria	Nil	...
6 Influenza	1	Nil
7 Encephalitis lethargica	1	...
8 Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	7
10 Other Tuberculous	2	Nil
11 Syphilis	...	...
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...
13 Cancer	11	10
14 Diabetes	0	3
15 Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ...	2	10
16 Heart disease	34	26
17 Aneurysm	...	...
18 Other circulatory diseases	2	2
19 Bronchitis	7	3
20 Pneumonia	2	4
21 Other respiratory diseases	Nil	Nil
22 Peptic ulcer	3	...
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	1
24 Appendicitis	1	...
25 Cirrhosis of liver ...	1	...
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...
27 Other digestive ...	2	1
28 Nephritis	3	2
29 Puerperal sepsis ...	...	1
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...
31 Congenital causes, etc.	6	...
32 Senility	0	4
33 Suicide	1	...
34 Other violence... ...	2	1
35 Other defined diseases...	8	5
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...

Causes of Death		M.	F.
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)			
Small-pox		...	...
Poliomyelitis		...	...
Polioencephalitis ...		...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total ...	8	2
	Legitimate	8	2
	Illegitimate	0	0
Live Births	Total ...	173	162
	Legitimate	169	160
	Illegitimate	4	2
Stillbirths	Total ...	12	2
	Legitimate	12	2
	Illegitimate	...	...
Population		17,820	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

An ample and continuous supply is given by the Gravesend Water Company, from a well sunk in the deep chalk which is situated in the Northfleet district. I am informed that there is an ample supply and that there is no likelihood of any shortage. There is also a good reserve in the well at Windmill Hill.

The quarterly analysis shows that the water is pure and free from pollution.

Reservoirs.

Gravesend & Milton ...	One 800,000 galls. at Gravesend.
	One 220,000 galls. at Northfleet.
	One 100,000 galls. at Northfleet.

Public Analyst's Report on Water Samples.—(Copy).

Description of Sample.	Gravesend & Milton.
Date of Collection	12-3-37
Total Solid Residue	36.5
Chlorine	1.7
Free Ammonia	0.0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.4
Oxygen absorbed $\frac{1}{4}$-hr. at 80° F.	0.006
Oxygen absorbed 4-hrs. at 80° F.	0.017
Nitrites	Absent

Remarks to above.—This Water is of excellent organic quality

Signed. F. W. F. ARNAUD, F.C.I.,
Public Analyst for the County of Kent.

Particulars as to resources of and demand on Water Undertakings in Area :—

1.	(*a*)	No. of dwelling houses in district as at 31st Dec., 1936	4,749
	(*b*)	No. of other premises in district as at 31st Dec., 1936	112
	(*c*)	Total	4,851
2.		No. without supply into the building or to Standpipes :—	
	(*a*)	Dwelling Houses	... 6
	(*b*)	Other Premises	Nil
	(*c*)	Total	... 6

Croydon Corporation.

As reported last year, a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons to authorise the Borough of Croydon to construct Waterworks in the Parish of Cuxton and a Petition Against was

put in by the Strood R.D.C., who alleged that they and the said district and the inhabitants thereof would be injuriously affected, and they objected for the reasons, amongst others :—

1. The water supply of the said parish and the adjoining districts (including Northfleet) which are rapidly developing would be seriously affected.
2. The Bill would have the effect of limiting the powers which the rural district council or the inhabitants of their district possess at present in respect of the abstraction and use of water within the district.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Bill was defeated.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Scavenging.

House refuse is removed at least once in seven days by men employed by the Council under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, to a suitable site owned by the Council where it is covered each day with sufficient earth. Nearly all the work is done by two motor lorries, but in some parts a horsed cart is necessary.

Sewerage.

The main drainage scheme is completed and nearly all the houses are now connected to the main sewers. In a short time the whole of the district will be sewered with the exception of a few houses which are situated in the strictly rural portion, and Undershore.

When discharge into the sea is not practicable, as in Northfleet, local authorities have to make some arrangement for the purification of their sewage. Whatever method is adopted, the final effluent may have to be discharged into a stream of some sort, and certain standards have been fixed which determine the degree of purification necessary. The Sewage Commissioners at the 8th Royal Commission, suggested that :—

1. No sewage effluent should contain more than 3 parts of suspended solids per 100,000.
2. No sewage effluent should absorb more than 2 parts by weight of dissolved oxygen per 100,000 in 5 days at 18° C., and the stream after receiving the effluent should not absorb more than 0.4 part in the same time.

Certain important exceptions were made, depending on the size of the stream receiving the effluent.

1. When the stream is from 150 to 300 times the volume of the effluent, the standard of dissolved oxygen may be neglected, but the suspended solids should not exceed 6 parts per 100,000.

2. When the stream is from 300 to 500 times the volume of the effluent, solids in suspension should not exceed 15 parts. Ordinary sedimentation tanks would ensure this.
3. When the stream is more than 500 times the volume of the effluent all tests may be neglected, and the only treatment necessary is screening to remove the larger solid matters.

The aim of the two tests recommended by the Commission it to guage the putrescibility and de-aerating power of the effluent and the possibility of a stream becoming silted up by an excessive amount of solids discharged into it. " Bad effluents in time cause a nuisance in the streams receiving them, the growth of sewage fungus is encouraged, and fish life endangered. As many of our towns draw their water supply from rivers, all precautions should be taken to prevent pollution whenever possible. The pollution of streams by trade wastes is receiving more and more attention. In a report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1926, it is suggested that there should be a central authority to hold the scales between the various interests concerned ; and to be charged with the preservation of one of our greatest national assets—pure water."

"On the 4th instant I received from you a sample of Effluent taken at the Northfleet Sewage Works, and on examination I have obtained the following results which are expressed in parts per 100,000 :—

Total dissolved solids	175.0
Total suspended solids	3.4
Organic suspended solids	2.2
Chlorine	45.5
Free ammonia	0.42
Albuminolid ammonia	0.14
Oxygen absorbed (acid permanganate) $\frac{1}{4}$ hour ...	0.587
,, ,, ,, ,, 4 hours ...	1.06
Nitrogen as nitrates	7.0
,, ,, nitrites	Trace
Dissolved oxygen requirement in 5 days ...	1.47

The effluent had no sewage odour and it was of very satisfactory quality indeed."

Main Drainage.

The District Surveyor (Mr. J. A. Mitchell) Reports :—

" The main drainage of the district is now completed in every detail and only the normal extensions will in future be necessary to deal with the development of the district. The whole of the connections from the Taunton Road area in the Swanscombe Urban District are also completed. The disposal works have throughout the year, discharged an excellent effluent but the exceedingly wet winter has caused some difficulty in drying the sludge. For about three months, the sludge drying beds have failed to produce any sludge that could be handled and in consequence, there is a certain amount of back work to pick up in dealing with the sludge. I have decided to recommend the Council to make further provision for drying sludge as I do not consider the existing beds (whilst being sufficient for a normal year) will be

able, during the dry season, to deal with the sludge in sufficient quantities to make provision for another possibly wet winter. The wet weather also prevented the farmer from getting quantities of sludge on to the land and there is consequently more sludge at the disposal works than normally. This, however, is giving no signs of secondary putrefaction and the farmer will no doubt successfully dispose of this directly the weather conditions permit handling."

List of Bye-Laws in force in District.

Advertisement Regulations Act, 1925.
Cemetery.
Hackney Carriages.
New Streets and Buildings.
Nuisances.
Parks and Pleasure Grounds.
Slaughterhouses.
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures.

There are no local Acts.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

All milkshops, dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses, workshops and slaughterhouses are visited at least twice a year by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Most of the milk is imported from other districts. There are only two dairy farms in the District. Both are well kept and have a good water supply.

Two samples of ordinary milk were submitted for bacteriological eaxmination, one of which was reported unsatisfactory. The producer's premises were inspected, and advice was given

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Two samples of milk were examined by the inoculation test for the presence of Tubercle bacilli. Both samples were returned as negative.

Provision of Milk for School Children.

Under this Scheme the price of milk consumed in schools by young children, is reduced to one shilling per gallon, thus enabling it to be supplied to children at ½d. for one-third of a pint, instead of 1d. as hitherto. The milk will, whenever possible, be supplied in bottles containing one-third of a pint.

The Board urge that any areas where a supply of efficiently pasteurised milk is available, such milk should in all cases be

provided. In other areas, all possible precautions should be taken to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of the supply.

The Scheme came into operation on 1st October, 1934.

The Milk Marketing Board will accept no milk for rebate unless the source and quality of the supply have been approved by the Medical Officer of Health of the Local Sanitary District concerned.

"As time allows, investigation as to the purity of the milk and its freedom from disease taint will be made, but, in the meantime, I should be glad if you would kindly co-operate with me by letting me have certificates in the form attached in respect of school supplies in your area, of which I append particulars.

In view of the fact that often a dairyman obtains his milk from more than one herd, may I ask you to report on each herd concerned if it is in your district. If not, on hearing from you I will endeavour to get the necessary information from the Medical Officer of Health in whose district it is.

I hope it will be possible for you to let me have these certificates at a very early date and in any event not later than 22nd October. I am issuing a tentative certificate of approval in all cases covering the period until I have the information you will supply.

I hope, at a very early date, to commence examinations for tubercle and bacterial counts, and I trust I may then also rely on your further co-operation in collecting and forwarding the necessary samples of milk for examination. These samples will, if possible, be the bottled ones as supplied to the school."

The following is some of the information asked for :—

(1) If the milk is not pasteurised and there is such a supply to be obtained within reasonable distance, kindly state the name and address of the dairyman concerned ; (2) Comments on the health of cows ; condition of premises and any improvements ; if milking is carried out satisfactorily ; if bottling, cooling and handling of milk is properly done.

Many enquiries were made as a result and every effort was made to bring the milk up to a proper standard of cleanliness.

The scheme continues to operate satisfactorily. During 1936, 40 samples of school milk were submitted for the bacteriological test for cleanliness ; 34 were returned as satisfactory. Investigations were made at the dairy concerned in the 6 unsatisfactory samples, as a result of which a new bottle-washing machine was installed.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 9 Slaughter Houses in the District, which have been regularly inspected. Your Sanitary Officers visits them at times of killing. The condition of these places is, on the whole, satisfactory.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN USE IN THE DISTRICT.

	In 1920	In January, 1926	In December, 1936
Registered ...	4	4	4
Licensed ...	3	3	5
Total ...	7	7	9

Meat Condemned During 1936.

Disease.	Cattle.						Pigs.			Weight in lbs.
	Fore-quarters.	Heads and tongues.	Hearts.	Lungs.	Livers.	Intentines and mesentery.	Carcases.	Heads and tongues.	Plucks.	
Tuberculosis ...	1	3	2	2	1	1	1	5	2	434
Abscesses ...	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	26
Actinomycosis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36
Necrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	27
Swine Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	80
Totals ...	1	4	3	3	2	1	2	5	11	603

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

This Act is administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr. J. Chamberlain, Dartford, for the following particulars :—

Description of Sample.	*No. of Samples Taken.*	*Result of Analysis.*	*Prosecutions.*
New Milk	25	Genuine	Nil
Coffee	2	,,	,,
Camphorated Oil ...	2	,,	,,
Butter	1	,,	,,
Margarine	1	,,	,,
Lard	1	,,	,,
Sugar	1	,,	,,
Baking Powder ...	1	,,	,,
Gin...	1	,,	,,
Friars Balsam ...	1	,,	,,
Arrowroot	1	,,	,,
Mixed Pickles ...	1	,,	,,
Brandy	1	,,	,,
Golden Kernels ...	1	,,	,,
Olive Oil	1	,,	,,
Tincture of Quinine ...	1	,,	,,
Creamola	1	,,	,,
Ground Rice ...	1	,,	,,
Brawn	1	,,	,,
Breakfast Sausage ...	1	,,	,,
Fish Paste	1	,,	,,

Bakehouses.

There are 7 in the District, two of which are underground bakehouses. They have all been systematically inspected and usually found fairly well kept.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the District.

Swimming Bath.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W. 1.
1st November, 1935.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

" I am directed by the Minister of Health to emphasize the opportunity afforded by the coming winter months to take any necessary steps for ensuring a proper standard of cleanliness and purity of water in swimming baths and pools, and to draw attention again to the report on " The Purification of the Water of Swimming Baths " prepared by the Ministry of Health and published in 1929 by H.M. Stationery Office, from whom copies may be obtained directly or through any bookseller (price 1s. net).

The increased use of swimming baths and pools has made it all the more necessary that local authorities should see that the water is kept at a proper standard of cleanliness and purity. Where the sanction of the Minister is required to loans for baths or pools, care is always taken that any necessary plant for this purpose is provided. Plant will not do its work, however, unless it is properly maintained and used. Information which has reached the Ministry shows that great improvement has been effected, but more is needed and local authorities and private owners of baths or pools should thoroughly inspect the present arrangements.

The report of 1929 states that the requisite degree of purity can best be maintained by efficient continuous filtration combined with continuous and accurately controlled chlorination (other equally effective means of sterilization can be used, if desired, in place of chlorination). The need for properly qualified supervision is emphasized, and the keeping of a detailed daily record of the performance of the filtration and sterilization plant is recommended. Standards are laid down for clarity, alkalinity of filtrate, aeration and chlorine content (pp.46 and 51).

The recommendations made in the report apply to all swimming baths and pools open to the public, whether owned by the Local Authority or by private persons, and their application is strongly recommended."

Mr. B. L. Lelliott, Chief Welfare Officer of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., and British Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., reports as follows :—

" Cement Works Swimming Bath. This Bath was re-conditioned for the use of employees and residents of the district by the above Companies in 1927, and is situate in Hive Lane, off High Street, Northfleet. It is a tepid fresh water bath, 80ft. long, and 30ft. wide, graduating in depth from 3ft. 6ins. to 7ft. Diving boards 3ft. to 12ft., spring and fixed, are provided.

Until 1933 the water was supplied from deep wells situated near the Bath, but owing to the length of time involved in cleaning out and refilling once per week, a purification plant was installed in 1934. This plant was put in by Bell Bros., and purifies and aerates the whole of the water once every six hours.

Filtration and purification is carried out by a pressure filter and the addition of sulphate of alimina, alkali and chlorine. An 8ft. diameter pressure filter is provided which is capable of withstanding a test of 120 pounds per square inch, the filtering medium being silver sand. Sulphate of alumina solution and alkali are added by means of pumps before filtration, the chlorine is then added in the form of solution after filtration. Aeration takes place by means of a cascade.

The sides and bottom of the Bath are cleaned daily whilst the surround is cleaned with a solution of Voxsan. Tests of the water for the purpose of regulating the dosage of chemicals are taken periodically daily.

The apparatus installed has proved exceedingly efficient, and no complaints have been received regarding the condition of the water since its installation."

Report of Sample of Water.

Samples received September 1st, 1936. Lab. No. A.21069—70.
Results forwarded September 6th, 1936.

Description of Sample.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at : 37° C.	22°C.	B. coli (presumptive)
A.21069 Water from Swimming Bath, Hive Lane, Northfleet. (Shallow end)	1920	2280	Absent in 100ccs.,
A.21070 Water from Swimming Bath Hive Lane, Northfleet. (Deep end)	11	47	Absent in 100ccs.

Remarks: A.21069. The high bacterial content indicates that the chlorination could be improved.

A.21070. Good water.

E. R. JONES,
Pathologist.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total		156
(i) By the Local Authority		28
(ii) By other bodies or persons		128

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	278
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	757
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	66
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	203
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	276

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	240

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	22
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
		(a) By owners	20
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
		(a) By owners	14
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c)	Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2

Number of houses demolished voluntarily 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 2

(d) Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of the year 26

2. Number of families dwelling therein ... 26

3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... 243

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 45

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 19

2. Number of persons concerned in such cases 93

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil.

The following are the reports presented to the Council on the completion of the Survey carried out under the Housing Act, 1935 :

"In the 3,933 premises recorded, 45 cases of overcrowding are revealed, a percentage of 1.12. The survey in the Council estates shows 15 cases of overcrowding or 4.7%."

The following table gives the details briefly in each polling district.

District.	No. of Premises Surveyed.	No. Over-crowded.	No. Un-crowded.
Northfleet West ...	177	13	704
,, Central ...	808	13	795
,, East	402	5	397
Perry Street Dover Road...	824	1	823
,, ,, All Saints ...	1,182	13	1,169
	3,933	45	3,888

At the time of the survey there were 72 vacant premises in the district.

Statistics shown by the report.

66 Families are living in premises just large enough and it is evident some of these families will be come overcrowded as the children grow older.

73% of the families consist of 2 to 4 units.
72% of the houses are suitable for 7 to 9 units.
39 of the overcrowded families consist of 7 or more units.

The Ministry of Health have fixed the appointed day, after which overcrowding will be an offence, as 1st January, 1937.

Under section 6, the Ministry have made 1st July, 1936, the appointed day. This section of the Act prescribed certain particulars which must be entered in all rent books within six months.

As a result of this report the Council have decided to build a further 26 houses.

OVERCROWDING SURVEY—REPORT FOR NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

AREA.—Waterdales and Northfleet House Estate.

Number of persons in family.	Number of families containing the number of persons in the first column occupying dwellings with the permitted number shown at the head of this column.																		TOTALS.			
	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	4½	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	Ocd.	Ucd	Total.
1	—																					
1½		—																				
2			—		18				1			1									20	20
2½				—						2	5	1			1						9	9
3					—				2	1	15	7		2	2		2				31	31
3½						—			2	9	12	6			4						33	33
4							—		1	7	6	14		2	9		3				42	42
4½								—		2	8	11			4		1				26	26
5									1	1	8	11		1	10		7				39	39
5½									1	—	3	13			5	1	3			1	25	26
6											6	11	1		5		6				29	29
6½											—	7	1	1	4	1	4				18	18
7												—	1	1	5	2	1			3	9	12
7½												2	—	1	5	3	2			2	11	13
8												1		—	1		4			1	5	6
8½											1				—	1	1	2		1	4	5
9															2	—	1			2	1	3
9½															1		—	1		1	1	2
10															2	1		—		3		3
10½																	1		—	1		1
11																				—	—	—
Totals (Ocd									1		1	6			5	1	1			15	—	**Grand**
(Ucd					18				7	22	63	82	2	8	55	8	35	3		—	303	**Total 318**

OVERCROWDING SURVEY—REPORT FOR NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

AREA.—The whole of the Urban District.

Numbers of persons in family.	Number of families containing the number of persons in the first column occupying dwellings with the permitted number shown at the head of this column.																											TOTALS.		
	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	4½	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12	12½	13	13½	14	Ocd.	Ucd.	Total
1	—	2	6	1	5	1	6	0	9	2	3	3	9	10	12	13	2	6	1				1	1					93	93
1½		—			3		3		3									1											10	10
2			7	1	40	1	21	10	46	13	27	24	121	137	138	219	62	20	21	1	1		1				1		912	912
2½				—	3	3	13	4	16	4	18	14	32	45	32	116	14	8	3										325	325
3					—		5	11	39	10	41	37	109	102	133	216	50	37	14	2	3		2				4		819	819
3½			2			—	3		9	13	25	12	40	28	34	76	7	11	3	1	1			1				2	265	267
4							—	1	17	12	17	29	58	88	89	139	46	28	17	1	3	1	1			1	3		557	557
4½							1	—	3	5	8	16	13	15	31	44	13	7	2			1						1	160	161
5									—	2	16	19	37	46	41	60	36	19	11	1	1	1	1	2			2		302	302
5½									2	—	5	17	10	13	17	16	8	3	1		2		3				2	2	97	99
6									1	1	—	10	18	18	21	22	29	16	14	6		2	1	2		1	2	2	162	164
6½												—	8	6	10	10	11	9	4		2								60	60
7									1				—	4	9	13	11	11	8	4	3					1		5	60	65
7½													3	—	3	6	8	6	2	2			1	1				6	26	32
8											2	1		3	—	2	5	5	7	2	1		1					6	23	29
8½											1		2	3		—	1	2	2	1			1					6	7	13
9														1	3	2	—	1		1		1	2	1				6	7	13
9½															2		1	—	1									2	1	3
10														1	2	1		1	—								1	4	2	6
10½																1	1			—								2		2
11																1					—							1		1
11½																						—								
12																							—							
Totals (Ocd.			2				1		4	1	3	8	5	8	7	5	1											45	—	
(Ucd.	2	13	2	55	6	57	28	149	61	170	197	462	534	580	962	281	174	87	9	14	5	16	6	1	2	15	—		3,888	

Abbreviations—Ocd.=Overcrowded. Ucd.=Uncrowded.

Grand Total 3,933

The following special report upon housing conditions in Northfleet was presented to the Health Committee in November, 19[redacted]:—

" Some months ago, the Ministry of Health inquired whether the Council were satisfied with the housing conditions in their district and whether the powers granted under the Housing Acts had been exercised to their full extent. Instructions were issued to myself, as Medical Officer of Health, to report upon the position as regards the housing of the working classes in Northfleet and I have much pleasure in appending herewith my report.

Northfleet is mainly an industrial town and like many other towns in which industry has grown rapidly with the progress of the mechanical age of the nineteenth century, has a number of small dwelling houses, relics of the Victorian era when general law and bye-laws did not prevent the establishment of housing conditions which are intolerable according to present standards.

It is the earnest desire of the Ministry of Health and all connected with reform, that the standard of the working class houses be improved and that such houses as fail to conform to modern standards or which cannot be so improved, must be demolished.

The Housing Acts of 1930 and 1935 were designed to deal with this type of house and have laid down the procedure to be adopted.

Section 1 of the Housing Act, 1930, states :—

' Where a local authority, upon consideration of an official representation or other information in their possession, are satisfied as respects any area in their district :—

(1) that the dwelling houses in that area are by reason of disrepair or sanitary defects unfit for human habitation, dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants, and

(2) that the most satisfactory method of dealing with the conditions in that area is the demolition of all the buildings in that area, the authority shall cause that area to be defined a Clearance Area.

Provided that before passing any such resolution, the authority shall satisfy themselves :—

(1) that suitable accommodation is available for the persons displaced by the clearance of the area, or that the authority can provide such accommodation in advance of the displacement, and

(2) that the resources of the authority are sufficient for the purpose of carrying the resolution into effect.'

Since receiving instructions to prepare this report, the working class houses in Northfleet have been surveyed, and in my opinion, certain groups of houses which, by reason of their age, disrepair, sanitary defects and narrowness and bad arrangement of streets, are unfit for human habitation, should be defined as clearance areas, the present tenants rehoused and the houses demolished. Other houses are so situated that they must be dealt with as individual unfit houses, whilst a majority can be made fit by the service of notices under section 17 of the 1930 Act.

It is well to note that the present Government Subsidy towards the rehousing of displaced tenants is due for review in October, 1937, and that to gain the advantage of this subsidy, it will be necessary for all clearance areas to be scheduled and confirmed before that date.

The houses I propose to represent to you as unfit for human habitation are shown in the following tables :—

Area No.	*Premises.*	*No. of Houses.*	*Approximate No. of persons displaced.*
1	3 to 8, Wycliffe Road ...	6	17
2	17 to 23 ,, ,, ...	7	24
3	28 to 33 ,, ,, ...	6	18
4	3 & 5 Walnut Tree Place ...	2	15
5	10 & 12, Cooper's Road ...	2	6
6	13 & 14, Fiveash Road ...	2	5
7	33 to 47, Shepherd Street ...	8	17
8	69 & 71, ,, ,, ...	2	7
9	24 & 26, ,, ,, ...	2	5
10	114 to 120, ,, ,, ...	4	9
11	14, 15 & 16, Tooley Street) 39 to 45, Buckingham Road)	10	35
12	46 to 51, Buckingham Road ...	6	18
13	33 & 33a, Stonebridge Road ...	2	6
14	25 to 28a, ,, ,, ...	4	13
	Totals ...	63	195

Other properties I have in mind and in respect of which I should be glad to receive the Committee's instructions are :—

5 to 28 Dock Row ...	24	124
17 to 20a, The Hill ...	5	13
The Shore) Howard Square) Granby Road)	Regarding these properties, I am awaiting an appointment with Mr. Cox, Estate Manager of The A.P.C.M., Ltd., to discuss their future development."	

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	6	...	...
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	25	...	...
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	170	...	...
Total	201	...	Nil.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were inst'd (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to. H.M. Inspector (4)	
*Nuisances under Public Health Acts :—**				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation — insufficient	1	1	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation — unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation — not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).	...	...	...	...
Total ...	3	3	...	...

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

M. F. McDONNELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC, FOR THE YEAR 1936.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. LANE and GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1936 your Child Welfare and Maternity Clinic has continued to show a steady improvement. Our new commodious quarters have proved of great benefit to both the mothers and to your staff.

This year, the attendances have again greatly increased, and it is most gratifying to find this so. Since the inception of the Clinic 2373 children have been regularly examined—the average attendance being 51.9 at each meeting.

The Clinic is held bi-weekly—1½ hours sessions on Mondays and Thursdays, and, in addition, the Health Visitor is in attendance on Tuesday afternoons to assist mothers and to dispense food.

The provision of free milk to necessitous cases under the Regulations of the Ministry of Health continues to be made, and I am sure proves a great boon to many. Under the present arrangements there is no excuse for any child in Northfleet to be suffering from malnutrition.

It is with great pleasure that I record my appreciation of the help I receive from the Ladies' Committee.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is held one day in each week for one hour. The attendances at this Clinic are still small compared with those of the Child Welfare Clinic, but I am hopeful that more expectant mothers will avail themselves of the advice and services provided by this very necessary provision of our social services.

During the year 20 expectant mothers came for advice, the total attendances being 47.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lane and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B.

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1936.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

This is my Annual Report for the year 1936 :—

There were 267 births ; 147 males and 120 females.

There were 76 notifications by doctors ; 156 notifications by midwives ; 1 unsigned ; 34 not notified.

There were 13 stillbirths ; 5 illegitimate births ; 6 deaths.

There were 184 breastfed ; 49 handfed ; 10 mixed ; 24 to account for.

First visit to Infants under 1 year, 392.

Total visits under 1 year, 912.

Re-visits to children 1—5 years, 1,245. ; Total visits, 2,157,

Thanking you for all your kindness in the past

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

E. A. COOPER,

Health Visitor.

Welfare Centre.

9th March, 1937.

REPORT ON CHILDREN TAKEN FOR REWARD IN THE YEAR 1936.

There are 5 children on my books, they all go to school except one child.

28 visits were paid.

E. A. COOPER,

9th March, 1937. *Infant Protection Visitor.*

DEFECTS TREATED OR ATTENDED AT NORTHFLEET SCHOOL CLINIC FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Malnutrition	27	29
Bronchitis	4	5
Corneal Ulcer	2	1
Spinal Curvature	1	2
Blepharitis	24	20
Impetigo	103	121
Miscellaneous	90	125
Enlarged tonsils	18	9
Adenoids	2	Nil
Anaemia and Debility	17	64
Heart disease	4	3
Enlarged Cervical glands	9	9
Otitis Media	25	31
Scabies	16	8
Minor injury	81	116
Chorea	2	1
Flat feet	2	2
Conjunctivitis	Nil	6
Ringworm	Nil	1
Total children examined ...	426	553

The minor ailments continue to attend the clinic between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. until cured.

Cleanliness Inspections at Northfleet Schools.

Routine examinations for verminous conditions are carried out at least three times a year and the verminous children re-examined at frequent intervals.

Total number of boys examined	4295	Boys found verminous	24
Total number of girls examined	4545	Girls found verminous	122

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1936.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Council Offices,
Northfleet.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my first Annual Report, which is a resume of the work carried out during the year 1936.

In commencing this report it may be of interest to outline some of the duties as laid down by the Ministry of Health. These comprise :—

General inspection of the Urban District.
Inspections under the Housing Acts.
Investigation of all cases of infectious disease.
Disinfection of all bedding, clothing and infected rooms.
Inspection of Food Premises, such as those of Bakers, Grocers, Butchers, Fruiterers, Fishmongers and Fryers, Restaurants, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Hawkers' carts.
Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Piggeries, Stables and Offensive Trades.
Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
Smoke observations.
Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
Sampling of drinking water, bath water, etc.
Investigation of complaints.
Interviewing of builders and owners of property concerning sanitary work.

Other duties are :—
All clerical work necessary for the above.
Administration and supervision of the Cleansing Department.

The number of complaints received during the year was 108, a number of which were of a trivial nature, and could not be dealt with under the Public Health Acts. In every case where a complaint was found to be *bona-fide*, action was duly taken.

Total number of visits made	3,942
Preliminary notices served	218
Statutory notices served	36

The following table gives a classified list of the nuisances dealy with during the year :—

Accumulation of offensive matter	3
Animals—nuisance and injurious to health	2
Blocked drains cleared	41
Cesspools repaired	1
Dampness abated	40
Defective Chimneys	11
,, Doors	6
,, Door sills	4
,, Eavesgutters and fall pipes	15
,, Floors	12
,, Plastering	37
,, Pointing	40
,, Roofs	25
,, Sash cords	19
,, Ventilation shafts	7
,, W.C's structures	12
,, Walls	37
,, Wash coppers	6
,, Water fittings	5
,, Windows—causing want of ventilation ...	3
,, Window sills	15
,, Yard gullies	14
,, Yard paving	12
Distempering or limewashing	42
House drains re-constructed	8
House drains repaired	5
New flushing arrangements	70
,, Sanitary dust bins	108
,, Sinks and sink waste pipes	17
,, Stoves for proper preparation of food	9
,, Underlinings to roof	3
,, W.C. pans and traps	38
,, W.C's erected	2
Overcrowding	19
Rooms stripped and cleansed	43
Under floor ventilation	6
Vermin Infestation	4
Houses re-conditioned	26
Miscellaneous	12
Total number of defects dealt with during the year ...	779

Infection and Disinfection.

During the year, 70 cases of infectious disease were investigated, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	39
Tuberculosis	19
Other diseases	12

Information gained as a result of inquiry into these cases is submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, and dealt with according to his instructions.

Disinfection is carried out by spraying the rooms with formalin and fumigating with formalin gas; infected bedding and clothing are treated with steam at the Brook Vale Depot.

During the year 107 houses and 1,274 articles were disinfected and 48 articles destroyed.

Food Inspection.

During the last nine months of the year, 390 visits were made to slaughterhouses and 149 visits to premises where food is prepared or sold.

There are 9 slaughterhouses in the district, 4 being registered and the rest licensed. Slaughtering takes place on three days per week, and I am pleased to report that the general cleanliness is good.

During the year, 603 lbs. of meat were voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human food. Inspections were carried out in accordance with the terms of Memorandum 62 (Foods).

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 22 persons registered for the carrying on of such businesses, viz. :—

Cowkeepers	1
Dairymen	14
Milkshops (bottled milk only) ...	4
Sterilized milk (wholesale)	3

Designated Milk.

Three dairymen are licensed to sell " Certified " milk (bottled outside the district). There is no " Pasteurised " milk sold in the district.

Bakehouses.

Fourteen visits were made to the 7 bakehouses on the register, limewashing is carried out regularly and I am pleased to report that the general cleanliness is good.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year, 51 tins of poison were distributed to persons for premises where traces of rats were in evidence. Advice and caution as to the laying of baits are given in each case.

Poisoned baits and Cyanogas are regularly used at the refuse tip, the large number of banks and ditches surrounding the tip making the extermination of rats a difficult and constant task.

Caravans, Tents and Sheds.

There are two permanent encampments of caravans in the district. Both sites are supplied with water by means of stand pipes and the conveniences, separate for males and females, are connected to the sewers. Six visits were made to the sites during the year and no nuisances noted.

Stables.

During the year, 19 visits were made to premises *re* the keeping of animals. Many householders still keep chickens, etc., in their yards, and advice was given in a number of cases *re* cleanliness and the danger of rats.

Shops Acts.

It was not found possible to visit every shop in the district under the above Acts. 135 visits were made, and notices were served *re* accumulations of rubbish in 3 cases.

Drain Testing.

The water test is imposed on all new drainage work in connection with alteration to present systems or in the case of new houses. 162 tests were made during the year, while 276 visits were paid to work in progress.

Housing Acts.

During the year the preliminary survey under the 1935 Housing Act was completed. This survey revealed 45 cases of overcrowding out of 3,933 premises surveyed, a percentage of 1.12. The Ministry of Health fixed January 1st, 1937, as the appointed day, after which overcrowding will be an offence. Before the end of the year, the permitted number (for entry in the rent books) had been supplied in respect of 2,288 premises.

In response to inquiries from the Ministry of Health, a survey of the older properties was made to complete the slum clearance scheme before the end of the time fixed for securing the rehousing subsidy. 297 premises were inspected and a programme drawn up for representing during 1937, 16 areas comprising 110 houses as unfit for habitation.

Two cottages were demolished after action by the Council, and 3 others were voluntarily demolished by the owners during the year.

The work of inspecting houses capable of being made fit has progressed favourably during the year. 60 houses were inspected and preliminary notices served. In a number of cases the work necessary was completed without the service of statutory notices. 68 interviews were granted to owners agents, or builders and 284 visits made to work in progress.

Cleansing Department.

The above department was formed in October under my direction and supervision. The duties undertaken by the department are :—

House and trade refuse collection.
,, ,, ,, ,, disposal.
Street cleansing.
Street gully emptying.
Cesspool emptying.

The staff consists of 2 motor drivers, 17 labourers and a foreman divided as follows :—

7 Street sweepers.
4 labourers and 1 motor driver—No. 1 gang) House refuse
3 labourers and 1 motor driver—No. 2 gang) collection.
2 labourers and hired haulage—No. 3 gang—House refuse collection, gully emptying, cesspool emptying, and extra help on tip.
1 labourer—Refuse disposal.

Refuse Collection.—A weekly collection is made from all houses and premises with the exception of the outlying rural area, where the collection is monthly. During the next year it is hoped to arrange a fortnightly collection from the rural area.

Refuse Disposal.—Refuse is disposed by controlled tipping on a site owned by the Council and situated near the sewage works. It seems a pity, with the number of disused chalk pits in Northfleet, that controlled tipping cannot be used to endeavour to fill them.

Street Cleansing.—The area is divided into 7 districts and each man is provided with a modern pneumatic tyred orderly truck. Each is responsible for the cleansing of his own district. All main roads are swept daily.

Gully Emptying.—As yet, this service is carried out by hand and horse drawn tumbler carts. Two days per week are used for this purpose. The whole district is covered approximately every 6 weeks.

Cesspool Emptying.—With the completion of the main drainage system, this work has been reduced to the cesspools in the rural area only. A motor vacuum tank is hired when necessary.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

Tables showing Costs for the year ending 31st March, 1937.

Item.	Revenue Account.	I. Collection with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded. — Included	I. Collection with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded. — Excluded	II. Disposal with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded. — Included	II. Disposal with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded. — Excluded	Total with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded. — Included	Total with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded. — Excluded
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
A	Gross Expenditure	2413 1 5	2214 10 5	424 3 0	410 12 2	2937 4 5	2624 2 7
B	,, Income	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
C	Nett Cost	2413 1 5	2214 10 5	424 3 0	410 12 2	2837 4 5	2624 2 7
	Unit Costs.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
D	Nett Cost per ton	7 10¼	7 2½	1 4½	1 4	9 2¾	8 6½
E	Nett cost per 1,000 population ...	134 1 2¼	123 6 8½	23 6 10	22 16 2¾	157 8 0¼	146 2 11
F	Nett cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	482 12 3	442 18 1	84 16 7	82 2 5	567 8 10½	524 8 6
	Rate Poundage.						
G	Nett cost, equivalent rate in the £ ...	5.99d.	5.49d.	1.05d.	1.02d.	7.04d.	6.51d.
H	Percentage of G to total rate in the £ ...	4.22%	3.87%	.74%	.72%	4.96%	4.58%

				No. of Vehicles.	Percentage of refuse collected.
1	Total refuse collected in tons (estimated)	6,147	9 Method of Collection—		
2	Population	17,820	Horse Vehicles	1	18.6
3	Area (Statute Acres	3,770	Mechanical Vehicles	2	81.4
4	Weight in (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	18.7	10 Method of Disposal—		
5	Number of houses and premises	5,064	Crude tipping	Nil	
6	Rateable Value	£101,896	Controlled tipping (*i. e.* on lines of Ministry's precautions for tipping)	100%	
7	Produce of a penny rate	£408			
8	Total rates in the £	11/10d.	11 Average length of haul to point of disposal	1¼ miles.	

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
No. of days worked.	No. of loads removed.	Estimated tonnage.	Gross Cost.	Unit Costs per ton.	per load.	Per working day.	Net Cost equivalent rate in the £.	Percentage of H to total rate in the £.
25	177	440	£148 9 0	6/9d.	16/9d.	£5 14 0	0.37d.	0.26%

STREET CLEANSING AND GULLY EMPTYING.

		Gross Cost. £ s. d.
County Roads.		
London Road		288 9 1
Hall Road		135 8 11
Dover Road		89 6 3
Springhead Road		60 7 0
Wrotham Road		1 17 9
		£575 2 7

		Gross Cost. £ s. d.
Other Roads		835 6 5
Road Watering		9 4 0
Depot charges, etc.		10 0 0
		£854 10 5

Total Cost—County and Other Roads ...	£1,429 13 3
Nett Cost, equivalent rate in the £	3.55d.
Percentage of above to total rates in the £	2.5%

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. M. F. McDonnell, the Chairman and Members of the Council and Health Committee, for their kindness, the officers and staff at the Council offices for their assistance and advice, and also Mr. E. H. C. Wadhams, Additional Sanitary Inspector, the foreman and workmen of the Cleansing Department for their loyal support and willingness to accept any innovation I have introduced.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. CUNLIFFE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Cleansing Superintendent.